status of Mr. Ramachandra Row was specially deputed to inquire into the question elaborately, there were several important matters on which it was not possible for Mr. Ramachandra Row himself to express a decided opinion. The question of landed properties of each Devaswom was one on which there had been a wide divergence of views even among officials. Again, the want of a policy for Government in regard to the Devaswoms was another vital point. Was Government an owner or trustee of the Devaswom properties ? That question was still undecided. The financial aspect of Devaswom administration was again a moot point. Has Government been a loser or gainer after it took up the management of the Devaswoms? Has Government been spending money from its general revenue towards the maintenance and up-keep of the temples, as contended by some ? Or has the Government been a gainer, as held by others? The last point for consideration was the efficient and satisfactory management of the Devaswoms. Was it not the duty of the Hindu Government to maintain intact the Hindu institution of the Devaswom Department, just like the Ecclesiastical (Christian) Department of the British Indian (Christian) Government ? If that was the duty of the Hindu Government of Travancore, how could that be carried out ? Would it not be better to take away the management of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department and place it under a separate head ? To consider those and other allied matters a Committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed and their report should be published for public criticisms, and further action taken in the light of the views and criticisms on the Committee's report.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

138. Desirability of establishing in every taluk Poor Houses for the helpless and, if that is not feasible, the establishment of one such house in each Division for the time being and the opening of more in course of time.

Mr. Ousep Avira Tharakan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for granting a dispensary at Thycattussery and observed that the number of poor and utterly destitute people who, on account of their blindness, lameness, disease, deformity or other causes, could not earn a living and were homeless, was increasing. The only protection for such a miserable section of humanity was either the shade of a tree or road-side where, as it often happened, they died. As they constituted a large percentage of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, they were entitled to the protection of Government. In view of the large number of such destitute people everywhere in the State, the Member submitted that a Poor House should be opened in each taluk under the supervision of the Tahsildar or the President of the local T. I. C., as the case may be. If that was not possible, then one Poor House for each division should at least be opened. If Government could not run such institutions from public funds, liberal grants might be given to those who might establish them. The Member said that he was himself prepared to open one such institution in his taluk, if Government would give a liberal grant.

Dewan's reply.—I would not promise the award of grants now; but Government will be prepared to render all reasonable facilities to private gentlemen or bodies who come forward to open and maintain Poor Houses.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

139. Necessity for a Central Research Laboratory for Travancore.

Mr. T. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) said that the Indian Industrial Commission had impressed on the attention of the Government of India that it was the duty of the State to conduct scientific researches and to investigate the potentialities and possibilities of the natural resources of the country. That observation applied with equal force to Travancore which was rich in its natural resources. At the same time it must be said that nothing substantial had been done to develop the existing resources. There were very good prospects of research work being carried on by the Departments of Agriculture, Forest, Geology and the Museum and Public Gardens, if sufficient facilities were allowed to them. The recently sanctioned Bacteriological Laboratory attached to the General Hospital would no doubt be a very useful institution. It was well known that there were some diseases peculiar to Travancore such as

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly